



CALIFORNIA LATINO LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS



Volume IV, Edition III – March 2011

ASM TONY MENDOZA
CHAIR

◆
SEN RON CALDERON
VICE CHAIR

◆
ASSEMBLY MEMBERS

LUIS ALEJO

MICHAEL ALLEN

CHARLES CALDERON

NORA CAMPOS

GILBERT CEDILLO

FELIPE FUENTES

ROGER HERNÁNDEZ

BEN HUESO

RICARDO LARA

HENRY T. PEREA

ASM SPEAKER JOHN
A. PÉREZ

V. MANUEL PÉREZ

JOSE SOLORIO

NORMA J. TORRES

◆
SENATORS

LOU CORREA

KEVIN DE LEON

ED HERNÁNDEZ

GLORIA NEGRETE
MCLEOD

ALEX PADILLA

MICHAEL J. RUBIO

JUAN C. VARGAS



State Capitol, Room 2196
Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone 916-319-2056
Fax 916-319-2156

New Latino Caucus Member Profile

ASSEMBLY MEMBER NORA CAMPOS



Nora Campos was overwhelmingly elected to serve the residents of the 23rd Assembly District in November 2010. The 23rd District is wholly within the City of San José, including East San José, the downtown and the Monterey Road corridor. Prior to being elected to the Assembly, Nora Campos represented San José Council District 5 in East San José for nearly 10 years.

As the child of community advocates active in the Farmworkers Movement, Nora Campos had the unique opportunity to march alongside César Chávez in the company of her parents. It was through her family's involvement in civil and workers' rights causes that Nora gained her passion for public service and commitment to civic engagement and community improvement. It was this passion that drove her toward running for public office and it is this passion that continues to inspire her as a state legislator.

First elected outright in the primary of a special election in 2001, and twice overwhelmingly re-elected to the Council, Nora established herself as a leader and the voice of the underserved, advocating for increased public safety measures, greater access to public transportation and affordable housing, and infrastructure equality throughout San José. Some of her

greatest successes are the addition of 25 new police officers, the allocation of \$1.7 million to combat gang violence and fund after-school programs for at-risk youth, increasing the affordable housing stock for many first-time homebuyers, and low-income families and seniors. She was also able to revitalize a neglected and once blighted intersection by forging a \$73.5 million private/public partnership, which brought major national retailers—FAMSA Furniture, Target, Wells Fargo—and created an economic engine that greatly increased sales tax revenue in the area.

As the first Latina to represent the residents of the 23rd Assembly District, Nora plays a strong role in exhibiting the strengths of not only women and Latinos, but also the strengths of San José and the Silicon Valley. She remains committed to the ideals of her constituents: safe and strong communities, equal access to goods and services, the importance of growing green and clean-tech jobs, and the obligation to ensure our children have the tools they need to succeed in the ever-changing economy. With her spirit of innovation and creativity, she tackles problems head-on and is able to develop thoughtful solutions that get to the heart of issues.

The life of an Assembly Member is busy with events and meetings, often going well into the night. Despite these challenges, Nora's days always begin and end the same way – getting her son ready for day care in the mornings and putting him to bed each night.

**Latino Caucus
Staff Retreat**
(February 11, 2011)



LATINO CAUCUS STAFF RETREAT

Words of wisdom shared by exceptional speakers at staff retreat in Sacramento

The setting was the Sheraton Grand Hotel in Sacramento. The speakers included individuals who have accumulated vast amounts of knowledge about the inner workings of the Legislature through their various experiences. In their presentations, they addressed various topics including their backgrounds, their thoughts on where the state is headed, and provided advice as to what role staff plays in the success of the Latino Caucus.

The event began with former Senator and long-time California Democratic Party Chairman Art Torres and former Assembly Member and past Chairman of the Latino Caucus Joe Coto, providing insight into their time in the Legislature.

Founder and Chairwoman of Promerica Bank, Maria Contreras Sweet, discussed her ascension to her current position, first as a former staffer in the Legislature then through her experience as California's Cabinet Secretary of Business, Transportation, and Housing Agency. She described her experience as a successful businesswoman who continues to face doubters, even though she has excelled professionally.

Governor Jerry Brown's new Secretary of Policy, Gareth Elliot, was no stranger to the staff at the event. A former staffer to Senator President Pro Tem Don Perata and Senator Alex Padilla, Gareth was candid about his excitement and uncertainty at what he should expect with his new post.

Respected political consultant, Richie Ross, livened up the afternoon conversation by speaking candidly about his many experiences. Taking a page from his newly released book, "My Letters to Dead People," Richie provided many accounts of his first experiences in the world of politics.

California's Legislative Analyst, Mac Taylor, provided his insight into the budget that Legislators are tasked with balancing. He answered many staff questions, but also reiterated that California is going to have to make tough decisions in the near future.

The speakers ended with a legislative pitfalls briefing by representatives from the Assembly and Senate, who provided staff with advice on how to handle the legislative process.

CESAR E. CHAVEZ

Celebrating Cesar's Legacy on March 31st

César Estrada Chávez was born on March 31, 1927 in Yuma, Arizona. Best known for co-founding the National Farm Workers Association, later renamed the United Farm Workers (UFW), and leading the farmworkers' movement, Cesar's legacy continues to grow even 18 years after his death.

Cesar is the best known Latino civil rights activist whose nonviolent tactics permeated all of society during and after

the civil rights movement. His motto in life – *si se puede* – embodies the uncommon and invaluable legacy he left for the world's benefit.

In August, 2000, California established an official state holiday to celebrate the life and legacy of Cesar E. Chavez. Cesar's birthday, March 31st, was chosen as the day when all Californians are asked to promote service to the community in celebration of Chavez's life and work.

CHICANO LATINO YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROJECT

Investing in California's Future Leaders

The Chicano Latino Youth Leadership Project, Inc. (CLYLP) was founded in 1982 with the primary purpose of preparing students to participate in California's economic, social and political development. The Project is guided by the overall theme "California's Future Leaders," and its programs emphasize the importance of culture, community, college and careers. More than 3,400 students have participated in one of CLYLP's leadership development programs. Many alumni have become successful leaders in both the public and private sector.

In 2010, CLYLP served over 200 students statewide through their four major programmatic activities: the 28th Annual Summer Leadership Conference in Sacramento; the 6th Annual San Joaquin Valley Institute; the 4th Annual Los Angeles Institute; and the 2nd Comcast Fellowship Program, which allows college alums to work in the State Capitol.

CLYLP's approach is designed for long-term impact. By educating Latino youth about their role in becoming the state's future leaders, and by building the capacity of individual students to pursue higher education efforts, CLYLP builds knowledge and skills at the community level.

Volunteers are the bedrock of the CLYLP statewide operation. In 2010, over 250 volunteers, including many legislative staffers, formed the backbone of CLYLP efforts contributing an estimated 25,000 hours of volunteer time. Volunteers coordinate and staff all of the programs, including all logistics and fundraising activities.

For more information about CLYLP and to learn how you can get involved, please visit <http://clylp.org>. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

Jenny Oropeza
Sept. 27, 1957 –
Oct. 20, 2010



Jenny Oropeza
Scholarship
Information

Please send checks to:

**California State
University, Long
Beach Foundation**
6300 State University
Drive, Suite 332
Long Beach, CA 90815

The CSULB
Foundation is a 501c3

Federal ID#
95-6106694

Contributions are tax
deductible

LATINO LEADERS RECEPTION & JENNY OROPEZA SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER IN LONG BEACH

On Thursday, March 10, 2011, the Latino Caucus will bring together elected officials and community leaders for a reception in the Long Beach area. The Latino Caucus established the Latino Leaders Reception series two years ago and has hosted 6 successful mixers every year since then. This event, however, will also serve as a fundraiser for the Senator Jenny Oropeza Memorial Scholarship.

Senator Jenny Oropeza received a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from CSU Long Beach and served as the first Latina Associated Students President from 1979-1981. An accessible, quality education was the key to

her success in public service and she was passionate about this opportunity being available to all Californians.

The **Senator Jenny Oropeza Memorial Scholarship** was created to honor Senator Oropeza and her commitment to education and our youth. A \$150,000 endowment is being created to offer an annual \$5,000 scholarship beginning in the fall of 2011 at California State University, Long Beach. The first scholarship will be awarded this May for use next year. By creating a \$150,000 endowment the amount of the scholarship will grow over time to keep up with the increasing cost of attending CSULB.

DID YOU KNOW?

Sutter's Fort Historic State Park has a Mexican Flag Day Celebration every year on the 24th of February. Mexican Flag Day celebrates the historical contributions of Mexico and its significant impact on the development of the United States. Only at Sutter's Fort is the Mexican flag raised daily to celebrate its rich history. Each year, on February 24th, the community unites in celebration of the contributions of immigrants to California. This special event brings school children and community representatives from throughout California to learn about our California-Mexico heritage.

In 1839 a Swiss immigrant named John Sutter received a land grant in the Sacramento Valley from the Mexican government. He used the land to create a flourishing agricultural empire and named it New Helvetia (New Switzerland). Sutter's Fort established Sacramento's earliest settlement and the first non-indigenous settlement in California's Central Valley. In 1847 Sutter sent aid to the Donner Party, a group of immigrants trapped in a winter storm in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Word spread and Sutter became known for his hospitality and for providing temporary refuge to travelers. This reputation made New Helvetia the destination for early immigrants to California.



The Mexican Flag still flies within the walls of Sutter's Fort in Sacramento, CA



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH 2011

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Mar. 10 (Thu) 5:30 – 7:00 pm	Latino Leaders Reception & Jenny Oropeza Scholarship Fundraiser Museum of Latin American Art; 628 Alamitos Ave; Long Beach, CA 90802
Mar. 16 (Wed) 1:30 – 4:30 pm	Latino Caucus, Latino Caucus Institute & NALEO Redistricting Forum State Capitol, Room 437
Mar. 16 (Wed) 5:30 – 7:30 pm	Chicano Latino Youth Leadership Project (CLYLP) Reception Location: Sacramento (TBD)
Mar. 18 (Fri) 1:00– 3:00 pm	Tri-Caucus Townhall Meeting on CA High Speed Rail Project and Small Business Contracting Opportunities; CA Science Center, Loker Room; 700 Exposition Park Drive; Los Angeles, CA 90037
Mar. 23 (Wed) 12:00 – 1:30 pm	Latino Caucus & Latino Water Coalition Reception Honoring 2009 Latino Caucus Members. State Capitol Basement (Sacramento)
Mar. 23 (Wed) 4:00 – 6:30 pm	MALDEF's State of the State Briefing Citizen Hotel; 926 J St; Sacramento, CA 95814
Mar. 31 (Thu)	Latino Caucus Cesar Chavez Day Floor Ceremony Location: State Capitol, Assembly Floor

For more information about upcoming events, please contact Armando Chavez at (916) 319-2056.

ONLINE RESOURCES

Website: <http://www2.legislature.ca.gov/latinocaucus/>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=57405266134>

YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/user/LatinoCaucus>

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/latinocaucus> (@latinocaucus)

Photo-Album: <http://picasaweb.google.com/CA.LatinoCaucus>

If you have any questions regarding the newsletter, please contact Armando Chavez at Armando.Chavez@asm.ca.gov